

From: Fong, Michael

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:01 AM

To: Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>
Cc: Auriemma, Anthony <Anthony.Auriemma@seattle.gov>; Moseley, David <David.Moseley@seattle.gov>; Ranganathan, Shefali <Shefali.Ranganathan@seattle.gov>; Formas, Stephanie <Stephanie.Formas@seattle.gov>; Noble, Ben <Ben.Noble@seattle.gov>; Arestad, Kirstan <Kirstan.Arestad@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Best, Carmen <Carmen.Best@seattle.gov>; Scoggins, Harold D <Harold.Scoggins@seattle.gov>; Hayes, Patty <Patty.hayes@kingcounty.gov>; Johnson, Jason <Jason.Johnson@seattle.gov>; Aguirre, Jesús <Jesus.Aguirre@seattle.gov>; Zimbabwe, Sam <Sam.Zimbabwe@seattle.gov>; Hara, Mami <Mami.Hara@seattle.gov>; Colby, Tess <Tess.Colby@seattle.gov>; Kline, Julie <Julie.Kline@seattle.gov>

Subject: Impacts of Eliminating the Navigation Team

Councilmembers –

As budget deliberations have unfolded over the last several weeks, the Executive has appreciated you and your staff's willingness to have in-depth discussions around various programs and funding proposals. This has afforded everyone the opportunity to have thoughtful dialogue around our collective priorities for the City.

One topic that we share a keen interest in is our homelessness outreach and engagement efforts, particularly involving the Navigation Team. This program is one of our most effective efforts to reach our unsheltered population and offer services and supports while balancing the individual and unique needs of people experiencing homelessness, and maintaining public health, safety and access to sidewalks, parks and open space in our community. As winter approaches, we are also mindful of the role the Navigation Team plays in bringing people indoors as inclement weather starts to impact our region. This February, when we had more snow than we've seen in half a century, the team worked 24/7 to connect with over 700 people and transport nearly 200 individuals to shelters and warming stations across the city. The work of the Navigation Team is critical.

Today, members of the Mayor's Cabinet, including: Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best; Seattle Fire Chief Harold Scoggins; Public Health: Seattle-King County Director Patty Hayes; Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jesus Aguirre; Seattle Public Utilities GM/CEO Mami Hara; Department of Transportation Director Sam Zimbabwe; Budget Director Ben Noble and Human Services Director Jason Johnson authored a memo articulating the public safety, health and homelessness intervention values of the Navigation Team as well as their concerns with any potential reduction to the Navigation Team's services and availability. I have attached that memo to this email for you and your staff's review. As you will see, City departments are significantly concerned by your inquiry to the City Budget Office on the impacts of reductions in investment for the Navigation Team.

We look forward to continuing to work together in support of a comprehensive range of interventions to help those experiencing homelessness and manage the health and safety impacts of encampments in our community.

Sincerely,

Mike